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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 DRC-01 /113 W
---------- 112071
R 301554Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9580
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, EGEN, ELAB, DA
SUBJ: ELECTIONS APPEAR MORE LIKELY

REF: COPENHAGEN 2372 (NOTAL), 2373, 2385

1. BILATERAL TALKS OVER FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICY BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMING MODERATE LIBERAL PARTY AND THE LARGEST
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PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, COLLAPSED AT 6 LAST NIGHT.

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PRIMIN HARTLING THEN IMMEDIATELY CALLED A MEETING OF
SIX FOLKETING PARTIES (MODERATE LIBERALS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS,
CONSERVATIVE, RADICAL LIBERAL, CENTER DEMOCRATS AND THE
CHRISTIAN PARTY). AFTER MEETING UNTIL ABOUT 11 LAST NIGHT,
THE GROUP OF SIX ADJOURNED TO MONDAY
AFTERNOON. THE CRITICAL MODERATE LIBERAL-SOCIAL DEMOCRAT
TALKS APPARENTLY BROKE DOWN BECAUSE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE LIBERALS' PLANS TO CUT BACK ON SOCIAL
AND EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES WHILE LEAVING DEFENSE AND
AGRICULTURE UNTOUCHED.

2. OVER THE WEEKEND THE LIBERAL PARTY CONGRESS WILL BE
HELD IN COPENHAGEN. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THE MAJOR ISSUE
AT THE CONGRESS WILL BE WHICH OF THREE COURSES THE
LIBERALS OUGHT TO FOLLOW. THE FIRST WOULD BE TO CALL
ELECTIONS. ALL COPENHAGEN PAPERS SEE THIS AS A VERY REAL
POSSIBILITY, WITH BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT CONSERV-
ATIVE) SPECULATING THAT ELECTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE AS
EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 24; THIS WOULD ALLOW THE REGULAR
SESSION OF THE FOLKETING TO CONVENE AS SCHEDULED OCTOBER 1.

3. THE SECOND COURSE WOULD BE ANOTHER "BLACK COMPROMISE"
AMONG THE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES. GLISTRUP AND HIS MAVERICK
PROGRESS PARTY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO TOLERATE THIS ARRANGE-
MENT, A PRESUMPTION NOT ALL THAT CERTAIN BECAUSE THEY HAVE
REJECTED CATEGORICALLY INCREASING THE VAT FROM 15 TO 20
PER CENT, A VITAL INGREDIENT IN HARTLING'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM.
THIS COURSE COULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF AVOIDING ELECTIONS
AT THIS TIME BUT, BY LEAVING THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
OUT, IT WOULD MAKE THE FORTHCOMING BIENNIAL WAGE NEGOTIATIONS
THAT MUCH HARDER.

4. FINALLY, THERE COULD BE A COMPROMISE AMONG THE SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS, THE LIBERALS AND THE RADICALS. ACCORDING TO A
POLL PUBLISHED TODAY IN THE FINANCIAL DAILY BORSEN, 60 PER
CENT OF THE DANISH VOTERS SUPPORT THESE PARTIES. A
RESULTANT NEW AND BROADENED GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTED
WITHOUT NEW ELECTIONS COULD BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO
SOLICIT THE KIND OF BROAD SUPPORT THAT WILL BE NEEDED
IN THE ECONOMICALLY DIFFICULT TIME AHEAD.
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5. HARTLING'S GOVERNMENT HAS TWICE BEEN SAVED AT THE
LAST MOMENT BY COMPROMISES BUT NOW THAT THE CRUNCH IS
COMING ON HIS ECONOMIC MEASURES, THE OMENS DO NOT APPEAR
GOOD FOR HIM. NO AMOUNT OF TALK AMONG POLITICIANS IS
GOING TO CURE DENMARK'S ECONOMIC PLIGHT AND IT JUST MAY
BE THAT THE POLITICIANS WILL END UP BY HAVING TALKED
THEMSELVES INTO THE ELECTION THEY SAY THEY DO NOT WANT.

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